

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with H. Jay Spiegel on 12/3/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 6, line 3, "di(meth)acrylate" has been substituted by --dimethacrylate --.

In claim 12, line 3, "di(meth)acrylate" has been substituted by --dimethacrylate --.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14-18, and 20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record Zeng *et al.* (US 6,051,626) discloses a dental adhesive composition (1:5:10) comprising polymerizable methacrylate monomers in 75-97 weight% (mono and/or polyfunctional, with polyfunctional monomers based on methacrylic acid esters of a polyhydric alcohols) (1:53-68; 3:1-4:55; 7:34-36); polymerizable monomers having an acid group in 2-20% (7:37-8:35); an organoboron compound in 2-24 weight% (2:1-20); wherein the total of components is 100% (4:17-24; 13:34-40). Zeng *et al.* (US '626) does not disclose the specific polyfunctional monomers of claim 1 {glycerol dimethacrylate and/or tetramethylolmethane triacrylate}. Furthermore, Zeng *et al.* (US '626) discloses the total of all monomers is 75 to 97

parts by weight which comprises 2 to 20 weight% of a monomer containing an acid group and 80 to 98 weight% of a monomer containing no acid group (1:62-68), but does not specifically provide an amount of monofunctional and polyfunctional monomers (3:1-7:36). The examples (Tables 1-3) provide mixtures of mono- and poly-functional monomers, but not in the amounts claimed in the instant application. It would be impermissible to combine the specific polyfunctional monomers which Zeng *et al.* (US '626) does not disclose {glycerol dimethacrylate and/or tetramethylmethane triacrylate} from other prior art, as well as optimize the amounts of all monomers present to achieve the presently claimed dental adhesive composition.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL PEPITONE whose telephone number is (571)270-3299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Eashoo can be reached on 571-272-1197. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mark Eashoo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

MFP
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